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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

JARRETT, SCOTT L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3623

DATE MAILED: 08/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/001,686	Applicant(s) SWANKE ET AL.	
	Examiner Scott L. Jarrett	Art Unit 3623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 June 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 June 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This **Final** Office Action is in response to Applicant amendment filed June 5, 2006. Applicant's amendment amended claims 1-20. Currently claims 1-20 are pending.

Response to Amendment

2. The Objection to the Title in the previous Office Action is withdrawn in response to Applicant's amendment to the Title.

The Objection to Figure 4 in the previous Office Action is withdrawn in response to Applicant's submission of a corrected drawing.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

It is noted that the applicant did not challenge the officially noticed facts cited in the previous Office Action therefore those statements as presented are herein after prior art. Specifically it has been established that it was old and well known in the art at the time of the invention:

- to schedule a meeting to discuss tasks (activities, deadlines, milestones, deliverables, etc.) that are missed, overdue, late, in-trouble or the like wherein the meeting participants are the one or more resources responsible for and/or effected by

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the overdue tasks/activities wherein such meetings enable the team (project manager, sponsors, clients, etc.) to discuss how to address/rectify the situation (problem, issue, schedule constraints, etc.) in order to get the project back on track/schedule; and

- to identify (search, find) and assigning resources to project tasks/activities (milestones, deliverables, etc.) that are missed, overdue, late, in-trouble or the like wherein project teams/managers identify and assign additional and/or alternative resources in order to get the project back on track/schedule.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-4, 7-11 and 14-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hung Chak Kuen Patrick, Secure Workflow Model (2001, Hung) in view of Simmons et al.'s Software Project Planning Associate (SPPA) as evidenced by at least Simmons et al., Software Project Planning Associate (SPPA): A Knowledge-Based Approach for Dynamic Software Project Planning and Tracking (2000).

Regarding Claims 1, 8 and 15 Hung teaches a system and method for coordinating resources to complete a (design) project comprising (Abstract; Chapter 4, Pages 31-66; Chapter 5.1, Pages 68-73; Chapter 7.2, Pages 110-116; Page 133):

- receiving information about tasks that must be finished in order to complete the (design) project, wherein the information comprises, for each task, a (appropriate) resource (agent, entity, etc.), a data source, at least one (design) tool (application, system, method, hardware, resources, etc.) and a duration (workflow, process, etc.; Paragraph 1, Page 5; Paragraph 1, Page 7; Paragraph 2, Page 110; "the process modeler defines IT resources such as programs that are needed in the process", Paragraph 1, Page 111; "the workflow modeler can define the application programs that

are used within the process", Last Paragraph, Page 111; Last Paragraph Page 113;
Paragraphs 1-3, Page 114; Figures 5.1-5.2);

- identifying tasks, comprising at least a first task and a second task, that must be finished to complete the (design) project based on the (design) project data (Bullet 2, Page 7; Page 10; Chapter 7.1.1, Pages 102-103; Figures 2.2-2.3, 5.1-5.2);

- prioritizing the tasks based on dependency between the tasks to create a (design) project plan, wherein the first task is a prerequisite of the second task (Paragraph 1, Page 5; Page 10; Chapter 5.1, Pages 68-69; Figures 2.2-2.3, 5.1-5.2);

- creating an encryption key for each one of the tasks, wherein the encryption key allows access by the resource to the data source and at least one design tool (application, system, software, hardware, component, object, resource, etc.) for a limited period of time and wherein the creation of the encryption key for the second task is gated until the completion of the first task (time-to-live, just-in-time permissions, discretionary access control, mandatory access control, task-based authorization, temporal access control; Paragraphs 1-2, Page 13; Bullets 1-2, Page 14; Paragraphs 1-2, Page 20; Paragraph 1, Page 27; Bullets 1, 3, Page 34; Bullets 3-6, Page 35; "A secure workflow model grants the privilege for an agent to execute the task if all its input events have been accessed and all its dependent tasks are completed.", Paragraph 3, Page 39; Last Paragraph, Page 41; Bullet 1, Page 54; Paragraph 2, Page 70; Bullets 1-2, Page 73; Figure 3.1);

- storing the (design) project plan and data in a database (Section 3.2.2, Pages 22-24; Figures 2.1, 7.10; inherent in IBM MQSeries Workflow product/system);

- automatically notifying resources of corresponding task responsibilities and associated due dates based on the (design) project plan (dynamic assignment, work lists; Bullet 1, Page 6; Bullets 1-2, Page 112; "Each activity defined for the process must finish and then the agent who receives a notification has to act on it.", Paragraph 3, Page 114);

- automatically monitoring work being performed on the tasks through a computerized network (workflow monitoring, workflow path; monitoring workflow state and transitions; Paragraph 1, Page 33; Pages 35-38; Bullet 1, Page 104); and

- monitoring task completion status (e.g. tasks being ignored; workflow state/status monitoring; task not started and not completed; Bullets 3-5, Page 37; Pages 35-38).

Hung is silent on the contents of the notifications sent to resources/agents regarding tasks and subsequently does not expressly teach automatically notifying resources of corresponding task responsibilities and associated due dates based on the (design) project plan as claimed.

Hung does not expressly teach automatically notifying a project team leader of task completion status, over tasks and tasks being ignored based on the monitoring as claimed.

SPPA teaches notifying resources of corresponding task responsibilities and associated due dates based on the project plan (project plan, task assignments, etc.;

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Column 1, Paragraph 2, Page 307; Column 2, Bullets 1-2, Page 309; Column 1, Bullet 4, Page 310) and automatically notifying a project team leader (project member, project/program manager, project management office, etc.) of task completion status, overdue tasks and tasks being ignored based on the monitoring (not started, no activity, etc.; Section 5.2, Page 309) in an analogous art of coordinating resources to complete a project for the purpose of enabling the project manager to proactively monitor and manage the project (e.g. the system tracks/monitors the project's progress/status, identifies potential problems and advises the project manager on potential next steps/solutions).

More generally SPPA teaches a system and method for coordinating resources to complete a (design) project comprising (Abstract):

- identifying tasks that must be finished to complete the project based on (design) project data (Column 1, Paragraph 2, Page 305; Column 1, Paragraph 2, Page 306; Section 5.2, Page 309);
- assigning the tasks to a plurality of resources (Column 1, Paragraph 2, Page 305; Column 2, Paragraphs 5-6, Page 306);
- prioritizing the tasks based on dependency between the tasks to create a project plan (Column 2, Paragraph 3, Page 305; Column 1, Paragraphs 1-2 and Last Paragraph, Page 306; Figure 3);
- storing the project plan (system, database, file, etc.; Column 2, Paragraph 2, Page 306; Section 4, Pages 307-308; Section 5.1, Page 308; Figure 1);

- notifying the resources of corresponding task responsibilities and associated due dates based on the project plan (project plan, task assignments, etc.; Column 1, Paragraph 2, Page 307; Column 2, Bullets 1-2, Page 309; Column 1, Bullet 4, Page 310);

- automatically monitoring work being performed on the tasks through a computerized network (PAMPA; Column 1, Last Paragraph, Page 306; Section 3, Page 307; Section 5.2, Page 309); and

- automatically notifying a project team leader (project member, project/program manager, project management office, etc.) of task completion status, overdue tasks and tasks being ignored based on the monitoring (not started, no activity, etc.; Section 5.2, Page 309).

SPPA teaches a system and method for coordinating project resources wherein the monitoring further comprises observing whether a resource is actively working on a task exclusively by observing network activity of the resource (Section 5.2, Page 309-310) and that a plurality of rules can be defined which detect specified project conditions and trigger/invoke a plurality of events (Planning Intelligent Agents, Pages 309-310) and that the system/method provides recommendations/guidance to project managers in order to get project/activities back on track (Abstract; Column 2, Last Paragraph, Page 306).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the system and method for coordinating resources to complete a project as taught

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by Hung would have benefited from notifying the resources of corresponding task responsibilities and associated due dates based on the project plan and automatically notifying a project team leader of task completion status, overdue tasks and tasks being ignored based on the monitoring in view of the teachings of SPPA; the resultant system/method enabling the project manager to proactively monitor and manage the project (e.g. the system tracks/monitors the project's progress/status, identifies potential problems and advises the project manager on potential next steps/solutions; SPPA: Section 5.2, Page 309).

Regarding Claims 2, 9 and 16 Hung teach a system and method for coordinating project resources wherein monitoring further comprises observing whether a resource is actively working on a task exclusively by observing network activity of the resource (workflow state and transition monitoring and control; event-driven activity execution, project monitoring, execution control, pattern of operation, context/task permission activation, etc.; Bullet 1, Page 7; Paragraph 1, Page 16; Last Paragraph, Page 20; Paragraph 3, Page 39).

Regarding Claims 3, 10 and 17 Hung does not expressly teach automatically scheduling a meeting of all corresponding resources if a task becomes overdue as claimed.

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Official notice is taken that scheduling a meeting to discuss tasks (activities, deadlines, milestones, deliverables, etc.) that are missed, overdue, late, in-trouble or the like wherein the meeting participants are the one or more resources responsible for and/or effected by the overdue tasks/activities is old and very well known in the art of project management wherein such meetings enable the team (project manager, sponsors, clients, etc.) to discuss how to address/rectify the situation (problem, issue, schedule constraints, etc.) in order to get the project back on track/schedule.

For example a project manager would schedule a meeting upon the realization that one or more tasks (activities, milestones, etc.) is late with the resource(s) responsible (assigned) to the task in order to ascertain the cause of the delay and to offer/discuss remedies to "make up" for the delays including such things as re-scheduling the task, assigning more/different resources, changing the task or the like.

Further it was known at the time of the invention that merely providing an automatic means to replace a manual activity which accomplishes the same result is not sufficient to distinguish over the prior art, *In re Venner*, 262 F.2d 91, 95, 120 USPQ 193, 194 (CCPA 1958). For example, simply automating the step of scheduling a meeting when tasks are overdue gives you just what you would expect from the manual step. In other words there is no enhancement found in the claimed step. The claimed meeting scheduling simply automates the manual activity. The end result is the same as compared to the manual method. A computer can simply schedule the meeting in a more efficient manner. The result is the same.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the system and method for coordinating project resources as taught by the combination of Hung and SPPA would have benefited from automatically scheduling a meeting of all corresponding resources if a task becomes overdue in view of the teachings of official notice; the resultant system/method providing an mechanism for discussing/addressing the overdue tasks/activities by meeting with the involved and/or effected resources.

Regarding Claims 4, 11 and 18 Hung does not expressly producing periodic status reports based on the monitoring as claimed.

SPPA teaches a system and method for coordinating project resources further comprising comprises producing periodic status reports based on the monitoring (Section 5.2, Page 309-310) in an analogous art of coordinating project resources for the purposes of enabling the project manager to proactively monitor and manage the project wherein the system tracks/monitors the project's progress/status, identifies potential problems and advises the project manager on potential next steps/solutions (Section 5.2, Page 309).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the system and method for coordinating resources to complete a project as taught by Hung would have benefited from producing periodic status reports in view of the

teachings of SPPA; the resultant system/method enabling the project manager to proactively monitor and manage the project (e.g. the system tracks/monitors the project's progress/status, identifies potential problems and advises the project manager on potential next steps/solutions; SPPA: Section 5.2; Page 309).

Regarding Claims 7 and 14 Hung does not expressly that the monitoring further comprises a polling function as claimed.

SPPA teaches a system and method for coordinating project resources wherein the monitoring comprising a polling function (PAMPA; Abstract; Section 3, Page 307; Figure 1) in an analogous art of coordinating project resources for the purposes of the enabling the project manager to proactively monitor and manage the project (e.g. the system tracks/monitors the project's progress/status, identifies potential problems and advises the project manager on potential next steps/solutions; Section 5.2, Page 309).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the system and method for coordinating project resources as taught by Hung would have benefited from polling (periodically monitoring) the project's information in view of the teachings of SPPA; the resultant system/method enabling the project manager to proactively monitor and manage the project wherein the system tracks/monitors the project's progress/status, identifies potential problems and advises the project manager on potential next steps/solutions (SPPA: Section 5.2, Page 309).

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6. Claims 5-6, 12-13 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hung Chak Kuen Patrick, Secure Workflow Model (2001, Hung) in view of Simmons et al.'s Software Project Planning Associate (SPPA) as evidenced by at least Simmons et al., Software Project Planning Associate (SPPA): A Knowledge-Based Approach for Dynamic Software Project Planning and Tracking (2000) as applied to Claims 1-4, 7-11 and 14-18 and further in view of Microsoft Project 2000 as evidenced by at least Pyron et al., Using Microsoft Project 2000 – Special Edition (2000).

Regarding Claims 5, 12 and 19 Hung teaches notifying resources participating in the project (workflow, process) regarding tasks (e.g. work lists, task assignment), as discussed above.

Hung does not expressly teach automatically notifying the resources of additional tasks as prerequisites tasks are completed as claimed.

SPPA does not expressly teach notifying resources when prerequisite tasks are completed as claimed.

MS Project teaches the well known step of notifying (providing, alerting, displaying, informing, etc.) resources when prerequisite (predecessor, required, precursor, etc.) tasks are completed (Chapter 6, Page 2 of 11; Chapter 1, Bullets 1-5,

Page 4 of 7; Figure 15.3, Page 3 of 7) in an analogous art of coordinating project resources wherein one of the key objectives in creating and distributing project plans in the form of Gantt charts, Pert charts, Network diagrams, and the like is to identify and make project resources aware of the task/activity interdependencies (e.g. dependency links start-finish, finish, start, etc.) so that resources know what they are responsible for and what (resources, tasks, etc.) they rely on and/or what tasks/activities rely on them in order to complete the project.

More generally MS Project teaches a system and method for coordinating resources for one or more projects wherein the system/method comprises:

- identifying tasks that must be finished to complete the project based on (design) project data (Introduction, Page 6 of 12; Figure 6; Chapter 5, Page 1 of 4);
- assigning the tasks to a plurality of resources (Chapter 5, Page 2 of 23; Figure 5.30; Chapter 9, Page 2 of 6; Figure 9.2; Chapter 10, Page 1 of 39; Chapter 15, Page 1 of 11);
- prioritizing the tasks based on dependency between the tasks to create a project plan (Chapter 5, Page 1 of 3; Chapter 6, Page 2 of 11; Figure 6.1);
- automatically notifying the resources of corresponding task responsibilities and associated due dates based on the project plan through the use of keys (identifiers, name/password, resource id, etc.; Chapter 15, Bullets 1-4, Page 4 of 7; Figure 15.3)
- monitoring (polling) work being performed on the tasks through a computerized network (team status, timesheet; Chapter 15, Page 6 of 7; Figure 15.5; Page 3 of 11; Figure 15.7; Figure 15.9, Page 8 of 16; Figure 15.28, Page 3 of 32);

- notifying a project team leader (project member, project/program manager, project management office, etc.) of task completion status, overdue tasks or tasks being ignored based on the monitoring (status reports, weekly reports, etc.; Chapter 15, Pages 5-10 of 32; Figure 15.32, Page 7 of 32; Chapter 16, Figure 16.13, Page 2 of 21; Chapter 24, Figure 24.10, Page 1 of 8);

- identifying/notifying resources of predecessor (prerequisites) tasks/activities (Chapter 6, Page 2 of 11; Chapter 1, Bullets 1-5, Page 4 of 7; Figure 15.3, Page 3 of 7); and

- identifying/searching for additional resources to complete tasks/activities (resource leveling, resource replacement, adding resources, etc.; Chapter 10, Page 33 of 39; Chapter 11, Page 1 of 10; Figure 11.37, Page 6 of 10).

MS Project further teaches controlling access to the (design) project data through the use of the (encryption) keys (logon, name/password, resource ID, etc.) assigned to the resources (logon; Figure 15.2, Chapter 15, Page 2 of 15) as well as automatically notifying the resources of corresponding task responsibilities and associated due dates based on the project plan through the use of keys (identifiers, name/password, resource id, etc.; MS Project Central, TeamUpdate; Chapter 15, Bullets 1-4, Page 4 of 7; Figure 15.3).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the system and method for coordinating resources to complete a project as taught by the combination of Hung and SPPA would have benefited from benefiting from

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notifying resources when precursor/prerequisite tasks were completed in view of the teachings of MS Project; the resultant system/method further assisting resources in understanding the progress of the project (project status).

Regarding Claims 6, 13 and 20, neither Hung nor SPPA expressly teach automatically searching for additional resources for tasks that are overdue as claimed.

MS Project teaches searching (identifying, locating, finding, etc.) for resources for tasks that are not assigned and/or resources that are over/under utilized (allocated; resource leveling, resource replacement, etc.; Chapter 10, Page 33 of 39; Chapter 11, Page 1 of 10; Figure 11.37, Page 6 of 10) in an analogous art of project management for the purposes of effectively managing the completion of the project by insuring all tasks are assigned and all resources are properly loaded.

MS Project does not expressly teach identifying/searching for additional resources when tasks are *overdue* as claimed.

Official notice is taken that identifying/searching/finding and assigning resources to project tasks/activities (milestones, deliverables, etc.) that are missed, overdue, late, in-trouble or the like is old and very well known in the art of project management wherein project teams/managers identify and assign additional and/or alternative resources in order to get the project back on track/schedule.

For example the project manager would schedule a meeting upon the realization that one or more tasks (activities, milestones, etc.) is late with the resource(s) responsible (assigned) to the task in order to ascertain the cause of the delay and to offer/discuss remedies to “make up” for the delays including such things as re-scheduling the task, assigning more/different resources, changing the task or the like.

Further it was known at the time of the invention that merely providing an automatic means to replace a manual activity which accomplishes the same result is not sufficient to distinguish over the prior art, *In re Venner*, 262 F.2d 91, 95, 120 USPQ 193, 194 (CCPA 1958). For example, simply automating the step of searching for resources when tasks are overdue gives you just what you would expect from the manual step. In other words there is no enhancement found in the claimed step. The claimed searching for resources simply automates the manual activity. The end result is the same as compared to the manual method. A computer can simply search for resources in a more efficient manner. The result is the same.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the system and method for coordinating project resources as taught by the combination of Hung, SPPA and MS Project with its ability to recognize overdue/late tasks and trigger one or more events as well as make recommendations to get the project back on track/schedule would have benefited from automatically searching for resources if a task becomes overdue in view of the teachings of official notice; the

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resultant system/method providing an mechanism for addressing/solving the overdue tasks/activities by adding resources to “make up” the schedule.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Redman et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,978,476, teach a system and method for coordinating design project (e.g. integrated circuit design/development) resources wherein the system/method provides security and access control using well-known public key encryption techniques as part of an electronic design automation tool.

- Haverstock et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,434,607, teach a system and method for providing multi-level/role-based security (authentication, authorization, etc.) over the Internet.
- Ernst, Johnannes, U.S. Patent No. 6,591,278, teaches a system and method for coordinating resources to complete a design project comprising the integration and monitoring of a plurality of tools and users.
- Kaufer et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,19,763, teach a web-based system and method for coordinating project resources wherein the system/method monitors project activities and schedules as well as notifies users of schedule and/or project problems (e.g. late deliverables, schedule slippage).
- Donelan et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0055832, teach a system and method for coordinating resources to complete a design project wherein the system/method comprises project monitoring, automated notifications (e.g. schedule slipPage) and status reporting.
- Jeng et al., U.S. Patent No. 2002/0162077, teach a system and method for coordinating resources to complete a design project (integrated circuit design) wherein the system/method provides access and version control.
- Davies et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0033191, teach a system and method for coordinating resources to complete a design project (e.g. Application Specific Integration Circuit design) comprising: stage-gate process/workflow, automatic notification of project state/status or assignment, (e.g. task/assignment is late/overdue, just-in-time task notification), project monitoring, polling project status/state, access

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control, project plan/workflow comprising at least two dependent tasks wherein the second task cannot be started/completed prior to the completion of the first task, status reporting and searching for required resources.

- Jaggi, Felix, An access control model based on time and events (1990) teaches a method for securely accessing resources, data and/or applications using fine-grained access control based on time and events.

- Sandhu et al., Role-Based Access Control Models (1996) teach a plurality of well-known access-control/security methods/techniques wherein the methods include users, roles, permissions (approval to access one or more objects in a system), rules/constraints and the like. Sandhu et al. further teach the application of the security models to coordinating resources to complete a project (project management).

- Marshall, Patrick, Beefier Domino.Doc 2.0 shows impressive maturation (1998) teaches the public use and sale of a system and method for coordinating resources to complete a project wherein the system/method comprises a plurality of "security tools" including but not limited to RSA, encryption and selective access control to project data/tools as well as project monitoring/tracking, rule-based workflow and automatic notifications (e.g. task reminders) capabilities.

- Automated Project Management Application Brings Exciting New Technology to CRE Managers (1999) teaches a commercially available system and method for coordinating resources to complete a project (GoProject) comprising user authentication and encryption, ongoing stats reports, automatic task assignment and project

monitoring. The article further teaches that the GoProject system/method utilizes Lotus Notes/Domino products (systems).

- Decmyn, Dominique, Novell unveils products in e-commerce push (2000) teaches a system and method for securely coordinating resources wherein the system/method utilizes Novell's commercially available system/method for "fine-grain" security and access control.

- Herzberg et al., Access Control Meets Public Key Infrastructure (2000) teach a system and method for providing fine-grain access control using well known public key techniques.

- GoProject Web Site (2000) teaches a commercially available system and method for securely coordinating project resources wherein the system/method is based on core features of Lotus Notes including but not limited to: "multi-layered security for access control, encryption and protection of content", project monitoring, status reporting, workflow, project database, "data defined security and encryption feature to define roles, establish accessibility levels and control signature authentication and approval functions."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott L. Jarrett whose telephone number is (571) 272-7033. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00AM - 5:00PM.

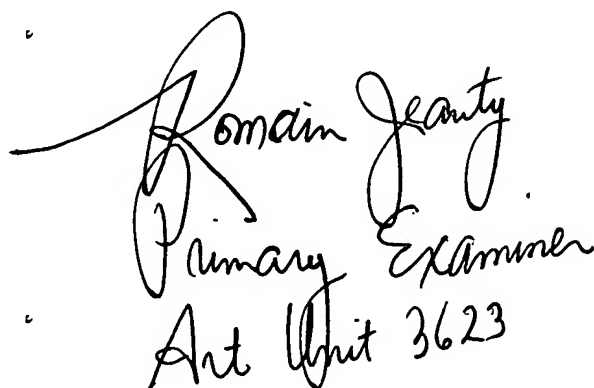
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hafiz Tariq can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


SJ

8/1/2006


Romain Jeanty
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